[24th April 1953

Sri L. LAKSHMANA DAS :—"What facilities will be given to these villages for trying the Japanese method of rice cultivation?"

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—"We have published a pamphlet giving the details of the method. Instructions will be given to the cultivators and they will be given facilities to purchase sulphate and other fertilisers without much difficulty."

Sri G. NAGABHUSHANAM :—"May I know whether the scheme will be extended to the whole State?"

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—"Yes, Sir. A list of selected villages in all the districts has been made by the Director of Agriculture. Since the question is about Srikakulam district only, a list of villages in that district has been placed on the table."

Price of paddy.

*305 Q.—Sri C. KANDASAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the Government have got any proposals to check up the rise of price of paddy and if so, what are the proposals?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"Yes. Consequent on the policy of relaxation of controls the Government have withdrawn control over prices of rice and paddy in open market. With a view to regulate movement of rice and paddy from surplus areas to deficit areas and to avoid the possibility of one area being depleted of its stocks and thus bringing in its trail soaring rise in prices of paddy and rice, the Government have divided the State into a number of zones with one or two surplus districts supplying in free market the needs of a few deficit districts included in each zone. Within the zone, free private trade is allowed and there is no control as regards price or the quantity of rice to be distributed except through fair price shops.

The Government have also issued instructions to the Collectors to adopt one or more of the following steps in order to check the rise in the price of paddy and rice in the open market :—

(1) To be on the watch to find out cases of cornering of stocks by merchants and to requisition such stocks.

(2) To open more fair price shops in areas where prices show a tendency to rise abnormally ; and

(3) To ensure that all fair price shops keep adequate stocks for issue to the consumers.

The Foodgrains (Licensing and Procurement) Order, issued by the Central Government has been extended to this State. Under this Order persons dealing in foodgrains in excess of 15 maunds have to take out licences and submit stock

returns. This system of licensing will prevent hoarding of stocks and enable Government to requisition stocks when need arises."

SRI C. KANDASAMI :—" The price of paddy has gone up very high. May I know why it has not come down with all these efforts of the Government?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Whenever a large quantity of rice or paddy is available, the price goes down and whenever there is a relative scarcity, the price goes up. The price is fluctuating."

SRI C. KANDASAMI :—" The price in Tanjore is between Rs. 10 and Rs. 13 per kalam, and it has not gone down. I ask why the Government, in spite of all these efforts, have not been able to bring down the price to the pre-decontrol level?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" If the reference is to pre-decontrol control price, the present price has not come down to that level. When there is normal production, we expect it to come down to that level."

Village Vaidya Scheme.

* 306 Q.—

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member Sri M. R. Appa Rao who gave notice of the question is not in his place. The question and answer will be printed in the proceedings."

SRI M. R. APPA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Village Vaidya Scheme launched by Madras Government is based on the recommendations contained in the Chopra Committee Report; and

(b) why the Government selected unregistered practitioners for training as Village Vaidyas?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) The Village Vaidya Scheme was started by the State Government in 1947 and the Chopra Committee Report was published in 1948. However, there are certain common features in the Village Vaidya Scheme as implemented by this Government and the subsequent recommendation in the Chopra Committee's Report.

" (b) The Medical Practitioners registered under the Madras Medical Registration Act are fully qualified to practise Medicine and Surgery and the Village Vaidya Scheme is not meant for them. This scheme is meant to give training to Vaidyas who have already established themselves in the villages, so as to ensure that the treatment they give is reasonably safe. They are also given training, in the preventive and public health aspects so as to make their work more useful to the villagers among whom they live and work. Though unregistered practitioners are selected for training